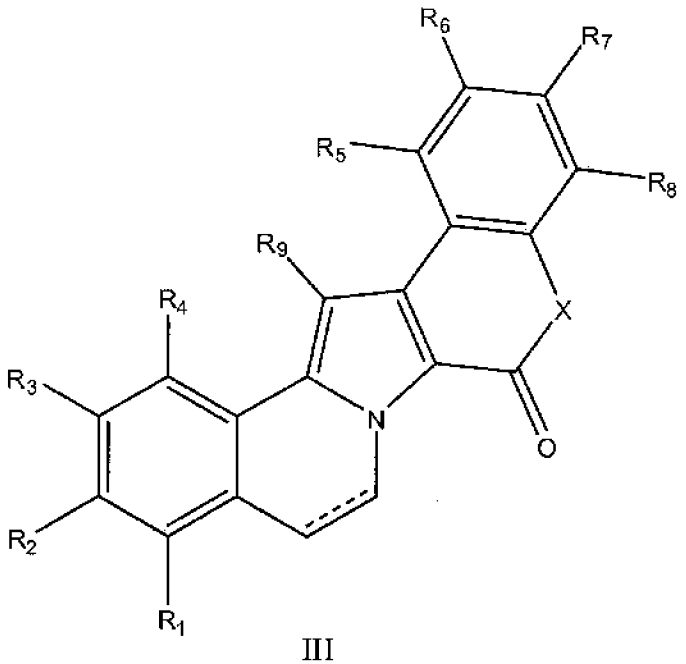
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A compound of the general formula **III**:




III

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, and $R_8$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or

unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein $R_9$ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic, ~~and halogen~~ bromine, and iodine;

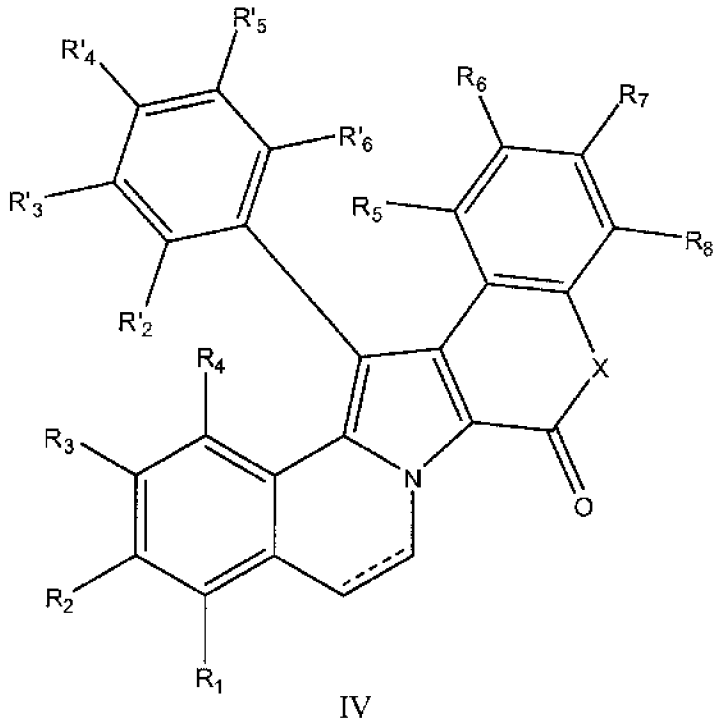
wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $NO_2$, $NH_2$, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, $C(=O)CH_3$, $CO_2H$, C(=O)R', substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups $R_1$ and $R_2$, $R_2$ and $R_3$, $R_3$ and $R_4$, $R_3$ and $R_9$, $R_4$ and $R_9$, $R_9$ and $R_5$, $R_9$ and $R_6$, or $R_6$ and $R_7$, $R_7$ and $R_8$ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

2. (previously presented) A compound of the general formula **IV**:




IV

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_8$, $R'_2$, $R'_3$, $R'_4$, $R'_5$, and $R'_6$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein $R_7$ is independently selected from the group consisting of OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

with the proviso that $R_7$ is not Me, Et, Pr, COMe, OH, OMe, OAc, $O^iPr$ or OBn when X is O;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $NO_2$, $NH_2$, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $C(=O)CH_3$, $CO_2H$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups $R_1$ and $R_2$, $R_2$ and $R_3$, $R_3$ and $R_4$, $R_6$ and $R_7$, or $R_7$ and $R_8$ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein X is O or NH.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein X is O.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the dotted line is a double bond.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein each of $R_1$-$R_8$ is independently selected from H, OR', and OC(=O)R'.

7. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein $R_3$ is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, and OR', with the proviso that when $R_3$ is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl.

8. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$ and $R_8$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and OR', with the proviso that when $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$ or $R_8$ is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein $R_4$, $R_5$ and $R_8$ are H.

10. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein $R_1$, $R_2$ and $R_7$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', OC(=O)R', $SO_2$R', PO(R')$_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, $NO_2$, and $NH_2$, with the proviso that when $R_1$, $R_2$ or $R_7$ are OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl.

11. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 wherein $R_1$, $R_2$ and $R_7$ are OC(=O)R' wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted aminoacid or aminoacids chain.

12. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein $R'_2$, $R'_3$ and $R'_6$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and OR', whercin R' is a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl.

13. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein $R'_5$ is selected from the group consisting of H and OR', wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl.

14. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein $R'_4$ is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', OC(=O)R', $SO_2R'$, $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, $NO_2$, and $NH_2$, with the proviso that when $R'_4$ is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl.

15. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 14 ~~wherein $R'_4$ is OC(=O)R'~~ wherein $R'_4$ is OR' and wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted aminoacid or aminoacids chain.

16. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein at least one of $R_1$-$R_8$ and $R'_2$-$R'_6$ is not H, OH, $OCH_3$, and $SO_3Na$.

17. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in

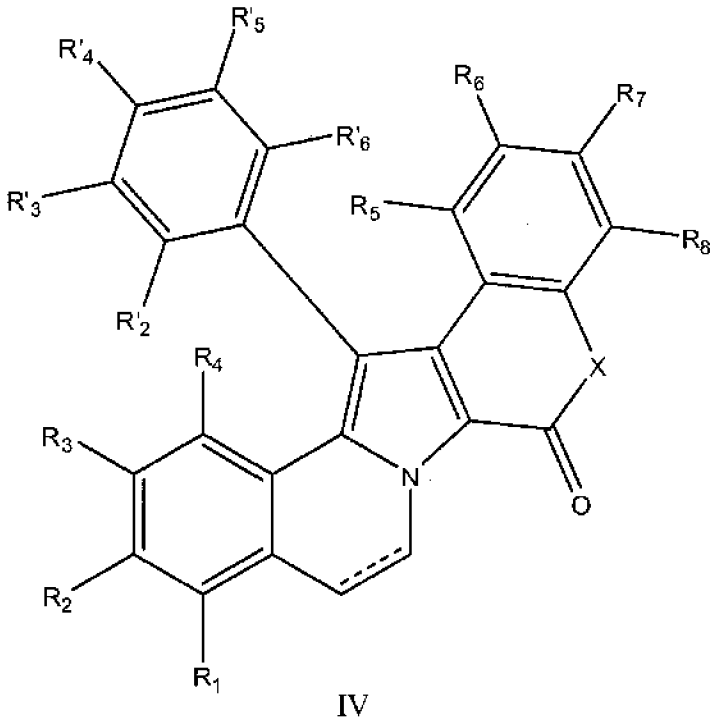
claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A method of treating a tumor which comprises administering to a human an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

20. (previously presented) A method of inhibiting topoisomerase I comprising administering to a human an amount effective for inhibiting topoisomerase I of a compound as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

21. (previously presented) A compound of the general formula **IV**:




IV

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_8$, $R'_2$, $R'_3$, $R'_4$, $R'_5$, and $R'_6$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein $R_7$ is independently selected from the group consisting of OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$

haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

with the proviso that $R_7$ is not OH, OMe, OAc, O$^i$Pr or OBn when X is O;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $NO_2$, $NH_2$, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, C(=O)$CH_3$, $CO_2H$, C(=O)R', substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups $R_1$ and $R_2$, $R_2$ and $R_3$, $R_3$ and $R_4$, $R_6$ and $R_7$, or $R_7$ and $R_8$ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 wherein $R_3$ is methoxy.

23. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 13 wherein $R'_5$ is methoxy.

24. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein at least two of $R_1$-$R_8$ and $R'_2$-$R'_6$ are not H, OH, $OCH_3$, or $SO_3Na$.

25. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 11 wherein R' is an aminoacid or aminoacids chain substituted with a cationic group.

26. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 15 wherein R' is an aminoacid or aminoacids chain substituted with a cationic group.

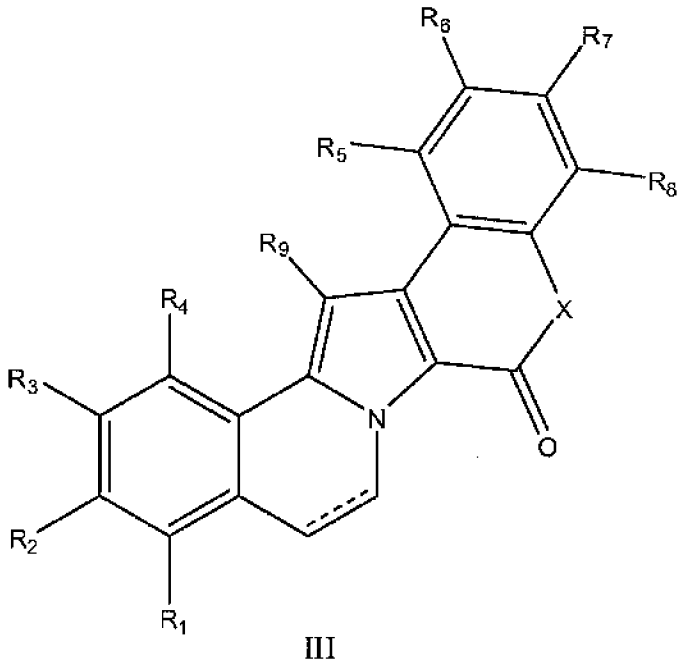
27. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 or 21 wherein each of $R_1$-$R_6$ and $R_8$ is independently selected from H, OR', and OC(=O)R' and wherein $R_7$ is selected from OR' and OC(=O)R'.

28. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 or 21 wherein $R_1$ and $R_2$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', OC(=O)R', $SO_2R'$, $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, $NO_2$, and $NH_2$, with the proviso that when $R_1$ or $R_2$ are OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl; and

wherein $R_7$ is selected from the group consisting of OR', OC(=O)R', $SO_2R'$, $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, $NO_2$, and $NH_2$, with the proviso that when $R_7$ is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl group.

29. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 wherein $R'_2$, $R'_3$, and $R'_6$ are H.

30. (new) A compound of the general formula **III**:




III

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, $R_4$, $R_5$, $R_6$, $R_7$, and $R_8$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein $R_9$ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', $SO_2R'$, NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, $NO_2$, $PO(R')_2$, $PO_2R'$, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', $CO_2H$, $CO_2R'$, $OPO(R')_2$, $OPO_2R'$, OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{12}$ haloalkyl, substituted or

unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{12}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic, and halogen;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $NO_2$, $NH_2$, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, $C(=O)CH_3$, $CO_2H$, C(=O)R', substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{18}$ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_{18}$ alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups $R_1$ and $R_2$, $R_2$ and $R_3$, $R_3$ and $R_4$, $R_3$ and $R_9$, $R_4$ and $R_9$, $R_9$ and $R_5$, $R_9$ and $R_6$, or $R_6$ and $R_7$, $R_7$ and $R_8$ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.